

CENTENNIAL NIGHT SKY FESTIVAL

“FIND YOUR PARK AFTER DARK!”

JULY 28-30, 2016

THURSDAY, JULY 28

11AM – 3PM MORaine PARK DISCOVERY CENTER

Family Activities and Crafts, Booths, and Solar Observing

7:30PM BEAVER MEADOWS VISITOR CENTER

Finding New Planets with the Kepler Spacecraft

Bill Possell

The Kepler spacecraft, launched in 2009, has been one of NASA’s most scientifically successful missions. From the first command to the spacecraft, students at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at University of Colorado in Boulder have been participating in Kepler’s mission operations. Kepler has amazed the world with the discovery of numerous planets circling distant stars in our galaxy. Yet Kepler has been one of the most challenging spacecraft to operate due to several on-orbit spacecraft system failures. Despite these failures, Kepler continues to collect valuable astronomical data and provide a training ground for future space professionals.

8:15PM UPPER BEAVER MEADOWS

Wonders of the Night Sky

Ranger Jon Rees

Join a ranger to learn some astronomy basics and hear the stories behind common constellations in the night sky. Bring binoculars and a flashlight.

8:30PM MORaine PARK CAMPGROUND

Rangers of the Lost Dark

Ranger Nick Myers, Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP

The dark skies above Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park were designated as an International Dark Sky Park in 2015. Join Black Canyon Astronomy Ranger, Nick Myers to examine what it means to be a Dark Sky Park and the role night skies play in the future of our national parks.

8:30PM GLACIER BASIN CAMPGROUND

Parks After Dark

Enjoy this series of short films that highlight the beautiful night skies found in national parks and what the national park service is doing to protect and enjoy them.

9PM HARBISON MEADOW PARKING AREA (WEST SIDE)

Celestial Wilderness

Use a telescope and join a ranger to explore the astronomy of Rocky’s night sky. If cloudy, meet at Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

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7:30PM BEAVER MEADOWS VISITOR CENTER

New Horizons

Denise Henry

Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp.

New Horizons—the **FIRST** mission to Pluto, the **FASTEST** spacecraft to ever launch, and the spacecraft traveling the **FARTHEST** into our solar system! Ball Aerospace engineers designed Ralph, the New Horizons color camera that’s giving us far-out Pluto pics—icy volcanoes, wobbly moons, and more!

8:15PM UPPER BEAVER MEADOWS

Astronomy in the Park

Ranger Cynthia Langguth

Observe the night sky with the help of a park ranger and expert volunteer astronomers. Dress warmly. Bring binoculars and a flashlight.

8:30PM MORaine PARK CAMPGROUND

Night Sky Photography

Stan Honda, Photographer

Our night sky is an awe-inspiring sight seen perfectly from parks like Rocky Mountain. I’ll show night sky landscapes and other astronomical images taken in Rocky Mountain and other national parks, locations around the world and even New York City. I’ll show the beauty of the sky and why we need to preserve this diminishing resource.

8:30PM GLACIER BASIN CAMPGROUND

Barnstorming the Moon

Mark Robinson

Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera Team members from
ASU School for Earth and Space Exploration

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter is now returning unprecedented science data from our nearest neighbor. New discoveries include subterranean voids, young volcanoes, recent faulting and resources - these discoveries and more will be highlighted in a discussion that looks towards future exploration of the lunar surface.

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Astronomy in the Park

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8:30PM GLACIER BASIN CAMPGROUND

Night Sky Photography Workshop

Stan Honda

Photographer

Don't put your camera away after the sun sets! There's a whole different park to photograph when the stars come out. And you don't need a telescope. I'll show you various techniques and settings to get great shots of the Milky Way, the moon, stars and other objects at night with an ordinary digital SLR. Bring your camera (and tripod if you have one). It's best to have a camera that has settings that are manually adjustable.